



Syrbula admirabilis
(Uhler)
Handsome Grasshopper

Description: Large, long-winged grasshopper with strongly slanted head. Variable in color from brown to green, but with a line of spots along the forewings. Male has a white marking behind eye and along lower edge of pronotum. Antennae slightly clavate. Hind femora with pale bands near knees.

Range: Mexico across southeastern U.S. and north to Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey.

Wisconsin distribution: Southwest corner of the state in Crawford, Grant, and Iowa counties.

State rank: S2?.

Habitat: Three of the four sites collected 1998-1999 are dry prairie on high bluffs in the Driftless Area. No habitat information is available for the Iowa County site, though the area has similar topography.

Discussion: The Hogback Prairie in Crawford County, Wisconsin and Gratiot County, Michigan (Cantrall 1968) are the only known sites for this species above the 43rd Parallel. The species may be limited to high "islands" of suitable habitat at the northern border of the range. Adults were collected in Wisconsin from August 12 to September 7.

Specimens examined: 3 males, 1 female from 4 sites.

References: Hebard (1934), Cantrall (1968), Otte (1981).

see Color Plate, p. 33



KATHRYN KIRK

GRASSHOPPER SPECIES ACCOUNTS



GIFF BEATON

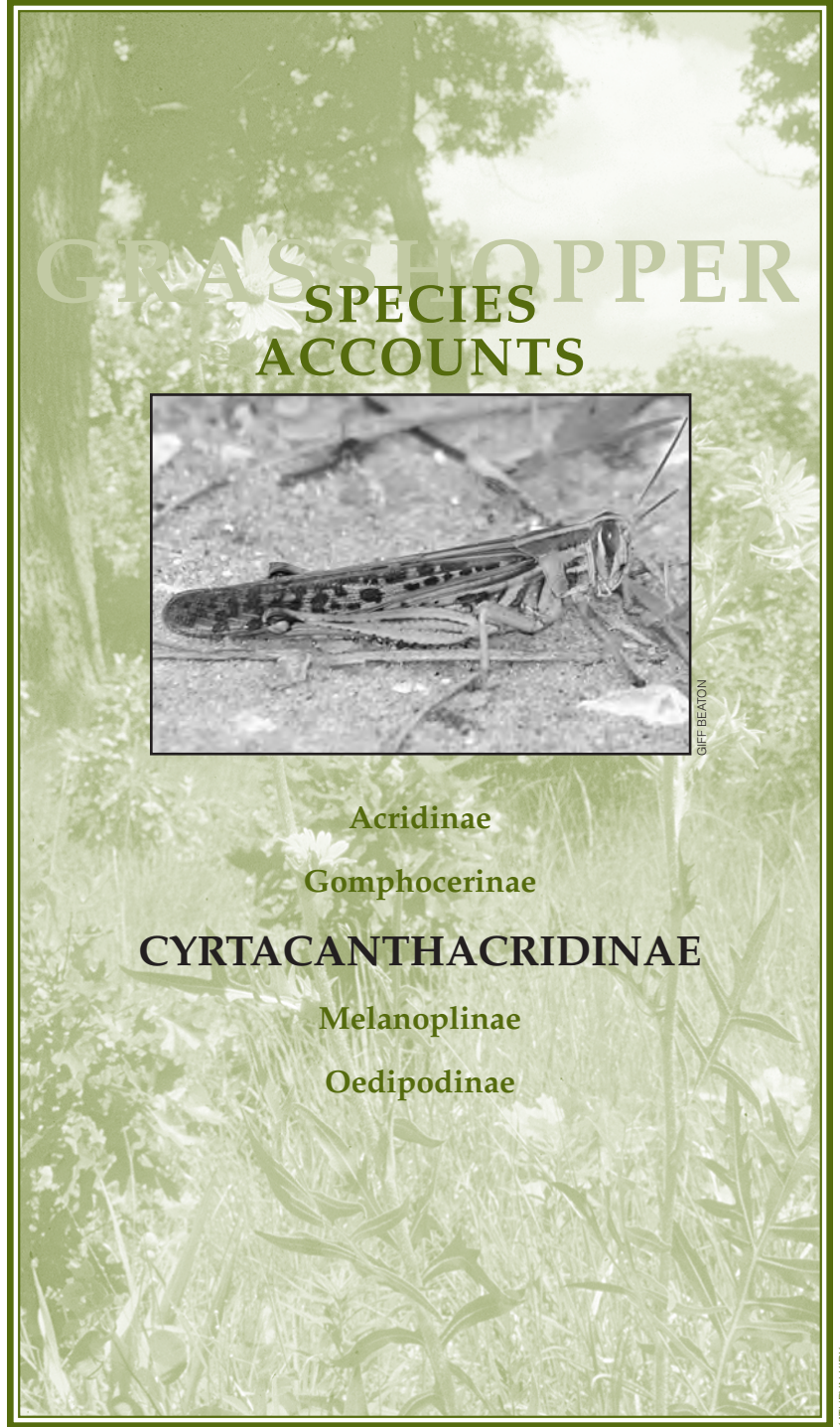
Acridinae

Gomphocerinae

CYRTACANTHACRIDINAE

Melanoplinae

Oedipodinae



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CYRTACANTHACRIDINAE

Schistocerca alutacea (Harris)

Leathercolored Bird Grasshopper

Description: Large long-winged grasshopper, yellowish-brown, always with a pale dorsal stripe. Hind tibiae yellow or brown with black-tipped yellow spines.

Range: Gulf and Atlantic Coast Plain states north to eastern Oklahoma and southern New England. Scattered records from coastal areas of Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and New York.

Wisconsin distribution: One specimen from MPM labeled "Milwaukee County, 1906".

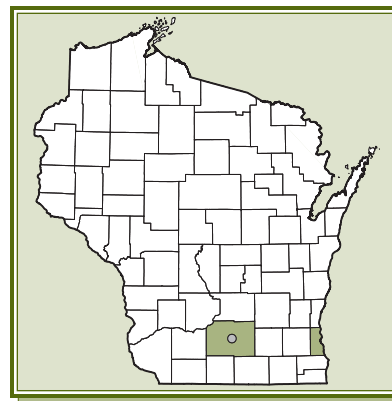
State rank: SH?.

Habitat: Marshes, swamps, moist thickets, and forest edges. Hubbell (1960) notes that the Great Lakes records are nearly all from sandy regions in proximity to moist habitats, which all but eliminates site elements as an aid in separating this species from *S. lineata* for collections along Lake Michigan.

Discussion: The taxonomy for this species remains disorganized, with six subspecies being recognized by Dirsh (1974). We have relied on the work of Hubbell (1960) and Song (2004) for identification and nomenclature. Hubbell (1960) accepts the nearby Lake County, Illinois records from southern Lake Michigan but reassigns Iowa, Minnesota, and all other Illinois records of *S. alutacea* to *S. lineata*. Dirsh (1974), on the other hand, recognizes three subspecies from Wisconsin, including *S. alutacea alutacea*, *S. a. lineata*, and *S. a. rubignosa*. Song (2004) has revived these as three valid species and does not recognize *S. alutacea* from Illinois. Bomar (2001) identifies his specimens from Western Wisconsin as *S. alutacea*, but upon further inspection now considers these to be *S. lineata*.

Specimens examined: 35 males, 26 females.

References: Hebard (1934), Hubbell (1960), Dirsh (1974), Song (2004).



Schistocerca americana (Drury)

American Grasshopper

Description: Large, yellow-brown grasshopper, forewings with distinct large brown spots extend well beyond abdomen. Head and body with a pale median stripe. Hind tibiae red.

Range: Breeding from southern U.S. to South America; migrants to Massachusetts, southern Ontario, Michigan, and central Minnesota.

Wisconsin distribution: Dane and Milwaukee counties.

State rank: SH?.

Habitat: Specimen labels did not specify, but Blatchley (1920) found *S. americana* in wet meadows, marshes, and other damp locales in northern Indiana and the habitat may be similar in Wisconsin.

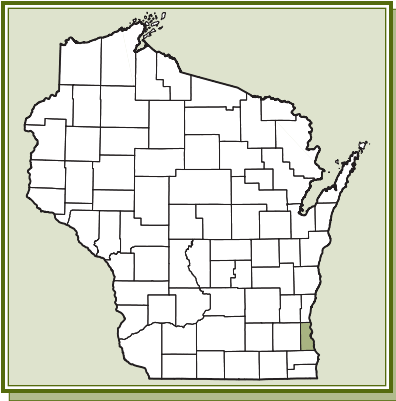
Discussion: The taxonomy for this species remains disorganized, with 11 subspecies being recognized in the most recent monograph by Dirsh (1974). Wisconsin specimens date from the early 1900s and are probably migrants.

Specimens examined: 2 males, 3 females.

References: Blatchley (1920), Vickery and Kevan (1985).

see Color Plate, p. 35





Schistocerca damnifica
(Saussure)

Mischievous Bird Grasshopper

Description: Large long-winged grasshopper, yet smallest of the Wisconsin *Schistocerca*. Body short and stocky, reddish brown with a brown line on head and pronotum. Body yellow below. Pronotum narrower than that of other *Schistocerca* and distinctly tectate.

Range: Breeds from Florida to Texas in southeastern U.S., north to Ohio. Migrates to Massachusetts, southern Ontario, Michigan, and Minnesota.

Wisconsin distribution: Two specimens from Milwaukee County collected in 1905 by W. Wheeler.

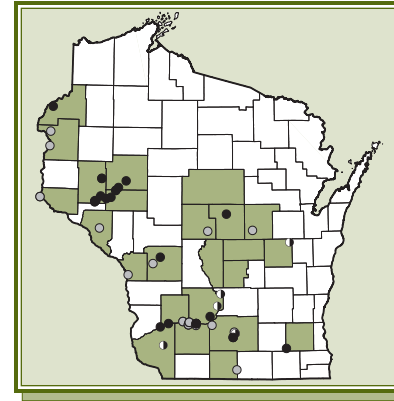
State rank: SH?.

Habitat: Recorded on sandy soils in dry open pine and oak woods.

Discussion: Only two specimens, found in the Milwaukee Public Museum, most likely representing isolated migrants from the eastern U.S.

Specimens examined: 2 males.

References: Hubbell (1960), Dirsh (1974).



Schistocerca lineata
Scudder

Spotted Bird Grasshopper

Description: Large, yellowish-brown grasshopper, may have a pale dorsal stripe. Hind tibiae may have some black coloration. Fore and middle femora of males distinctly inflated.

Range: Mexico, Colorado, South Dakota, central Midwest, scattered stations of the eastern Appalachians, and North Carolina along the Atlantic Coastal Plain to southern New England.

Wisconsin distribution: Along the Tension Zone and south in Wisconsin.

State rank: S5.

Habitat: Sand barrens, sandblows, river terraces on sand, dry prairie, and a few sites in dry forest openings.

Discussion: We re-examined superficial markings and relative body measurements as dictated by Hubbell (1960) on a majority of the 35 male and 26 female specimens identified as *S. alutacea*, leading us to believe that most, if not all, belong to *S. lineata*. A few specimens labeled "*S. alutacea rubiginosa*" were also assigned to *S. lineata*. Adults were collected July 2 through October 14.

Specimens examined: 79 males, 49 females.

References: Hubbell (1960), Vickery and Kevan (1984), Song (2004).

see Color Plate, p. 35